

Sinclair Broadcasting, as a major media conglomerate with free use of the public airwaves, has a mandate to serve the public interest in their broadcasting. Their decision to direct their 62 television stations to air an anti-John Kerry documentary two weeks before the presidential election, with no balancing counter-view, represents direct defiance of that mandate. It is, in fact, a partisan political act taken in the interest of benefitting the candidate they favor, George W. Bush, at the expense of the one they do not.

Allowing a public broadcaster to act in this fashion undermines democracy and thereby the public interest. It is also exemplary of why media consolidation can be dangerous in the absence of strict limits and regulations designed to ensure that a full diversity of opinions are represented.

The FCC owes it to the American public to strengthen media-ownership rules and prevent the kind of abuse represented by Sinclair Broadcasting's blatant use of public airwaves to attempt to influence the presidential election. I call on the FCC to use its regulatory authority to force Sinclair Broadcasting to behave in a manner that serves the public interest or face loss of their broadcasting licenses when they are up for renewal.

Thank you.